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Copy 8 of 11

NRO, USN & USAF REVIEWS COMPLETED

17 July 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Conversation with [] Relative to Carrier Training Exercise for IDEALIST Aircraft

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1. [] called the morning of 15 July to say that although he was not personally present there was a meeting 11 July between Admirals Schoech, Anderson, Chief of Naval Operations, and Admiral Rickette on the subject of long-range planning for U-2 carrier operations. The purpose of the meeting apparently was for Admiral Schoech to inform Admiral Anderson of recent developments, including our discussions of recent date with Admiral Schoech on this subject.

2. According to [] Admiral Anderson expressed concern over any protracted U-2 operations from Sixth Fleet carriers in the Mediterranean lest this ultimately be discovered and becoming an embarrassment on the image which Navy is striving to portray in this theater, namely that of an impartial "force for peace" on behalf of the Western powers. I reassured [] that because of the relative complexity of U-2 operations it was probable that carrier-based U-2 ops would not become a household affair and that this capability would be reserved in large part for critical targets in the Mediterranean and elsewhere. In view of this, I told [] it was my feeling that Anderson's reticence although understandable was not necessarily pertinent.

3. [] said he was still attempting to arrange a date for the projected training exercise on the USS KITTY HAWK during the period 5 through 16 August, and that because the time between now and then was relatively short for planning purposes, he felt that he and I should proceed this week to brief Vice Admiral Stroup, COMNAVIAIRPAC in San Diego, since Stroup has the KITTY HAWK within his purview. At the same time it was agreed that we should also informally brief Captain Horace Epps, USN, Skipper of the KITTY HAWK (CVA-63). He also said that it would be a good idea before going out there to

[REDACTED]

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get together with Vice Admiral Rayburn, the head of Naval Research, to discuss informally with him the projected cover arrangements for the training exercise. I agreed to the San Diego trip to be set for 17 and 18 July to include in addition to the pair of us [REDACTED] representing OSA IDEALIST Operations. During this trip we will also have a chance to drop in on Kelly Johnson Wednesday afternoon, 17 July, to see the modified fuselage cart/loading sling, which he has put together and which was successfully tested late last week. According to Kelly, he is ready for the training test at any time henceforth.

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[REDACTED]

3. As a last note, I turned over to Chief, Materiel Division, the movement of the T2V carrier arresting gear parts from Navy to [REDACTED] office said 15 July that these parts were ready for shipment by either Delchtrans or commercial air freight. [REDACTED] and I agreed that since the weight in cube is small, and since Justice

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[Redacted]

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25X1 said that these parts would be on indefinite loan, there was no requirement
25X1 to forward them to [Redacted] through Warner-Robbins Air Force Base as we
had earlier thought there might be. [Redacted] plans to send them in care
of [Redacted] and I left it to him to work out
details with Commander Justice.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

cc: [Redacted]

ADD/R

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